"I've had so many phone calls, just crazy phone calls, just hounding me for this movie. It's Ang Lee directing it with two pretty big names (stars Jake Gyllenhaal and Heath Ledger)."

KIMBALL BAYLES – owner of Kimball's Twin Peak, one of the theaters where "Brokeback Mountain" will open Friday

'Mountain' divide

Age, gender may determine who pays to see gay love story

By CAROL McGRAW and ANDREW WINEKE
THE GAZETTE

"Brokeback Mountain," which opens Friday in Colorado Springs, is billed as an "epic American love story," a romance between star-crossed soulmates in the wilds of rugged Wyoming.

But almost everyone else in America refers to it as "the gay cowboy movie," a tale of an intense — and intensely portrayed — relationship between two handsome ranch hands in the 1960s.

The movie has received rave reviews, landed on many critics' top 10 lists, garnered seven Golden Globe nominations, won the Lion Award at the Venice Film Festival, and earned best picture, director and actor nods from the New York Film Critics Circle.

In Denver and other big cities, the film has been drawing crowds of both men and women, gay and straight.

"It's had some of the highest per-screen numbers of any film that's played with Landmark this year," says Keith Garcia of Landmark Theatres, which owns the Mayan and Chez Artiste theaters in Denver.

But how will it play in Colorado Springs? Is a city that's home to prominent Christian conservative leaders, the family values movement, a strong military presence and a macho Western ethos ready for a homosexual love story that depicts a lot more than tame hand-holding scenes?

Depends. Some experts expect the film will transcend the gay issue and draw audiences who just want to see a good story told well. Others think women will go, but straight men will stay away because of an "ick" factor, or because they just don't like relationship movies — straight or gay.

Alma Cremonesi, who has directed the gay and lesbian Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival for six years, thinks "Brokeback Mountain" is mainstream enough and has attracted enough attention to draw a broad audience.

"I've had several straight people tell me they wanted to see 'Brokeback Mountain,'" she says. "For some people, the whole idea of being gay, it's repulsive to them. (But) for open-minded people, we see movies about all kinds of people who are different than us; why not gays?"

Connor O'Neal, a straight 18-year-old Cheyenne Mountain High School student, says he plans to see it because it is supposed to be a good movie — though he thinks some of his "homophobe" friends might feel uneasy watching guys canoodle on screen.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/FOCUS FEATURES

Heath Ledger, left, and Jake Gyllenhaal play cowboys from very different backgrounds who meet and fall in love, in "Brokeback Mountain," which is garnering critical acclaim.

• For movie times, locations and a review, see Friday's **GO!** section.

"It doesn't bother me. I have some gay friends at school," he says.

On the other hand, Ty Humphries, a 21-year-old Springs resident who attends Taylor University in Indiana, is "not real excited" to plunk down money for something that might make him a bit uneasy or possibly bored.

"I like romance movies but it would be strange. Being straight, I probably couldn't relate to it."

Kimball Bayles, owner of Kimball's Twin Peak, one of the theaters where "Brokeback Mountain" opens Friday, is cautiously optimistic about the film's chances here.

"I've had so many phone calls, just crazy phone calls, just hounding me for this movie," Bayles says. "It's Ang Lee directing it with two pretty big names (stars Jake Gyllenhaal and Heath Ledger)."

Still, Bayles expects some people to react like Humphries.

"I've seen the film and there are some — how should I say? — if you're squeamish about those things, you're going to feel a little bit uncomfortable," Bayles says. "It's not overdone, but it is there. It's their story."

GROUNDBREAKING FILM

Steve Isaac, online editor for Focus on the Family's Plugged In magazine, reviewed "Brokeback Mountain" and thinks it will have little appeal beyond arthouse crowds..

"I think once it exhausts its primary audience, it will falter quick-

SEE **MOVIE** • PAGE 3

ng to town in a
eir demands for
ey would take it
y from the shelves
ungry men and
d with $1,500

olorado Springs is
and" resort. John
's famous alder-
ngements to turn
s ranch, at Broad-
und for young and
$75,000 will be
... The grounds,
as the Cheyenne
o, will be opened
July 3.

Colorado Springs
rom past issues of
all 385-5990.

resident of the
Coolidge, died in
at age 60.
e of the Union ad-
man labeled his ad-
r Deal.
Yablonski, an un-
e for the presiden-
he Workers of
slain with his wife
eir Clarksville, Pa.,
ent Anthony Boyle
ere convicted of

ce charged truck
e with murder; he
of killing 13
kshire Ripper."
"Tip" O'Neill, for-
U.S. House of Rep-
Boston at age 81.
no, the 1960s pop
an, was killed when
ile skiing in South
e was 62.
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WATCHES: New uses keep old standard timely

FROM PAGE 1

"We didn't have any quantitative analysis on the broad effect of digital devices on watches," said Don Montuori, editor of Packaged Facts. "It was more anecdotal and 'gut' sense that cell phone and other technology would begin to eat into watch sales."

Wristwatches are finding new ways to remain useful. Japanese cell-phone maker DoCoMo released a cell-phone wristwatch in 2003.

That same year, Bill Gates of Microsoft announced plans for software for "Smart Personal Objects Technology" wristwatches that allow users to download information from the Internet wirelessly.

Cell phones have one clear advantage over wristwatches, said Brooks Hurd, 58, an engineer from San Luis Obispo, Calif., who travels to Asia for about six months each year. Hurd said he can land anywhere and feel assured that the time on his phone is in sync with the atomic clock.

"It's extraordinarily accurate," he said. But Hurd still alternates between an MP3 wristwatch that holds up to 256 megabytes worth of music and his Seiko.

For others, the watch is solely a fashion accessory.

"In the 21st century, there are not a lot of accessories that guys can wear," said Sam Hotchkiss, a 21-year-old from Durango. "A watch is generally accepted and it goes beyond its utilitarian purposes."

Take our advice

AMY DICKINSON

Send questions via e-mail to askamy@tribune.com or by mail to Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611.)

DEAR AMY: I am in my late 30s and have been happily married for many years.

A few years ago, my grandfather died.

My father received a sum of money from the estate. My father did not offer to share this money with any of his own children, and none of us has asked for any. My husband complains that my parents were selfish.

He generally keeps his resentment quiet, but sometimes it bubbles over, particularly when we are faced with a purchase that is difficult for us to afford or when my parents buy something he perceives as frivolous.

I am the only person my husband complains to.

I feel that my husband and I have done pretty well for ourselves, and I figured that my parents kept the money because they were trying to put themselves in a position to help with college costs for my younger siblings.

I guess I don't think it's any of my business. I don't want to base my relationship with my parents on how they handle their money.

How do I handle my husband's resentment? I don't think his feelings are entirely unreasonable, but I am uncomfortable with letting money have such an influence over me.

Burdened

DEAR BURDENED: Of course your husband is being unreasonable, and until you are less ambivalent about this, he will continue to be unreasonable.

He seems to have decided that he is entitled to receive money from your family. If he is going to feel entitled to someone else's money, then perhaps he should focus on his own parents.

It is wonderful that you and your husband are happily married and are doing well in life. I'd suggest that you "handle" his resentment by letting him know that his comments are out of line. If he wants to have a reasonable conversation with you about his financial expectations and your fiscal future — then he should have that conversation.

DEAR AMY: This is for the lady who wrote in, saying she sounds like a child on the phone.

I have been blessed with genes that make me look much younger than I am.

My wife and I built our dream home in an upscale community.

A salesperson who made it past the "no solicitors" signs came to the door and asked if my parents were home!

I replied that I had no idea, but I could call them and find out because they live 200 miles away.

Young at heart

DEAR YOUNG: I love it.

DR. DONOHUE

Write Dr. Donohue in care of The Gazette, P.O. Box 1779, Colorado Springs 80901

Q: I have had a very bad rash on my groin for six years. A biopsy was taken, and it came back as intertrigo. No one seems to know a cure for it. Is there one?

J.C.

A: Intertrigo comes about when skin rubs against skin. Women often get it in the crease beneath their breasts. Men and women can get in the groin. Overweight people whose skin sometimes hangs in folds are quite susceptible to it. Not only is abrasion of one skin surface over another responsible, but moisture between the two surfaces softens the skin and turns it red and causes skin layers to peel off.

You must stop the friction of skin scraping skin, and you must keep those skin surfaces dry and clean. If weight has a hand in this, then weight loss is necessary.

Start by applying wet compresses soaked in Burow solution and keep the compress on the skin surfaces for 15 minutes. Burow solution is found in all drug stores. Immediately after the compresses, dry the skin surfaces gently. Blowing on the skin with a hair dryer on a low setting is a good way to achieve dry skin without having to rub it with a towel. Do this three times a day and again before going to bed at night. Sprinkle drying powder on the opposing skin surfaces. Zeasorb-AF is a good one, and it has the added advantage of having an antifungal medicine in it. If you can't find that brand, use any drying powder, except cornstarch. Wear cotton underwear and change it daily.

It shouldn't take six years to get rid of intertrigo. If you're not making progress in about 10 days, you'll have to see the doctor, who can test for bacterial or fungal infection and prescribe the appropriate medicine for either. Another reason for seeing the doctor is to confirm the diagnosis. That has been done for you by the biopsy. Others, however, might confuse intertrigo with eczema, psoriasis or seborrheic dermatitis.

HINTS FROM HELOISE

Write Heloise in care of The Gazette, P.O. Box 1779, Colorado Springs 80901

I have a lengthy commute from home to work each day. I also combine after-work errands in order to save gasoline. I keep a divided basket (similar to what you use for napkins and plastic utensils at a picnic) in my car. In the longer section I place coupons, a memo pad, a small makeup pouch and a calendar. In the three smaller sections, I keep postage stamps, change (for tolls, drive-thru trips and soda machines), a pen, small hairbrush and other items I might need. I also put in a couple of individually wrapped wet towelettes and a small pack of tissues. This basket goes inside with me when I get home, and I can add whatever I might need for the next day. The basket "filing" system helps me stay organized, and I always have what I need when I am away from home.

Mary Mattheiss, Pensacola, Fla.

MARY, sounds like you are prepared!

Heloise

WHEN doing a graph pattern, such as knitting or cross-stitch, where I have to keep track of each row, I use a clear photo page to put my pattern in. That way, I can use a permanent marker to keep track of the rows I have done. By doing this, I still have my original pattern intact with no marks on it and can use it over again. The photo pages can be bought at an office-supply store and are fairly cheap.

Sue Black, Saranac, Mich.

Today's horoscopes by Jacqueline Bigar

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Jan. 5, 2006:
Often, you might be more determined than others expect this year. The problem is, you could make the facts conform to what you want to hear. You have much more going for you than you realize. Listen and understand what family and those close to you feel and think. Often, you find that others are more conservative than you.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have:
★★★★★-Dynamic ★★★★-Positive ★★★-Average ★★-So-so ★-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★
Smile, as the Moon in your sign gives you an

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★
Others approach you. How you see someone

VO
BS UP."
ROEPER
ES AND WALDEN MEDIA
SENT
HICLES OF
NIA
H AND THE WARDROBE
ia.com
NARNIA™ ©DISNEY/WALDEN
CARMIKE
CHAPEL HILLS
N. ACADEMY BLVD. & BRIARGATE
594-6000
CINEMARK
TINSELTOWN
E. CHEYENNE MTN. & VENETUCCI
576-0593
SORRY, NO PASSES.

Picture Show
recording
901 N. Academy Blvd.
719-380-SHOW
before 6 • $1 after 6 • $1.50 Tuesday • 50¢
DREAMER (PG)
12:00, 2:45, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55
ZATHURA (PG) 11:50, 2:35, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
CORPSE BRIDE (PG) 12:15, 2:25, 4:45, 7:10
NORTH COUNTRY (R) 9:30 PM
MARCH OF THE PENGUINS (G) 12:10, 2:40
JUST FRIENDS (PG13) 4:55, 7:15, 9:35
WALLACE & GROMIT MOVIE (G) 11:55, 2:30, 4:50
JARHEAD (R) 7:15, 9:55
THE LEGEND OF ZORRO (PG) 12:05, 3:00, 7:00, 9:50
FLIGHTPLAN (PG13) 12:20, 2:50, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00
THE CONSTANT GARDENER (R) 12:10, 3:05, 6:55, 9:45

Inventory
REDUCTION
SALE
10%-50% OFF
Everything in the Store
Ed's Cards & Comics
5857 Palmer Park Blvd.
596-9128
Mon & Tue 10-6 • Wed-Sat 10-7 • Sun 12-4
Next to K-Mart at Powers & Palmer Park

the Family Stone
Playing
COLORADO CINEMAS
CASTLE ROCK STADIUM 12
(303) 577-0772
CARMIKE CINEMAS
CHAPEL HILLS
(719) 594-6000
CINEMARK
CINEMARK 16
(719) 596-0442
CINEMARK
TINSELTOWN 20 USA
(719) 576-0593
CALL THEATRE OR CHECK DIRECTORY FOR SHOWTIMES

PRODUCTS AND IDEAS!

MOVIE: Men taught to set firm boundaries

FROM PAGE 1

ly," he says. "It will play the arthouses fairly well for a certain amount of time, but it won't play well at the shopping malls and the cineplexes."

All this is guesswork, however, because there's no strong precedent: Movie love scenes between men have been almost nonexistent. Men can't even touch each other unless it's played for jokes. Think of the famous bedroom scene between John Candy and Steve Martin in "Planes, Trains and Automobiles": "Those aren't pillows!"

Even the PG-13 "Philadelphia," with Tom Hanks as a gay man dying of AIDS, implied more than it showed.

But critics have said the gay issue is secondary to the larger theme of following one's heart, and say it is one of the grandest of cinematic love stories. Robert von Dassanowsky, film studies professor at University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, believes really good films refuse to be reduced to one explosive issue, and that audiences will be drawn to the humanity of the characters.

"The film attempts to do something much more psychological, much more philosophical than just exploit sexuality," he says. "I think it will gain an audience even in a conservative setting, both because of the star power and because it says something about the human values and human need."

Richard Cante, assistant professor of media and culture and faculty member of the sexuality studies program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, says there are deeper themes that could engage a broader audience: the tension between man and nature, the passage of time, and the risk and courage needed to buck the herd mentality.

AGE MAKES A DIFFERENCE

So who is likely to see — or not see — the movie? Interviews with psychologists, experts like Bayles and moviegoers around town lead to these general, if not scientific, conclusions:

- With its R rating, and with homosexuality and gay marriage already a hot button in some denominations, "Brokeback Mountain" will likely repel some people on religious grounds. There is a flip side to that, however: Adam Voss, 22, a Colorado Springs resident and student at Colorado Christian University in Lakewood, plans to go to the movie even though he believes homosexual acts are a sin. "I want to better understand the lifestyle so I can meet them where they are at that moment so I can better evangelize to them," he says.
- Younger men might be more open to seeing the movie than older men, possibly because — like Connor O'Neal — they are acquainted with or have friends who are gay. Older men were raised in a time when few gays came out of the closet.

Also, men carry some sociological baggage and are likely to be put off by the in-your-face depiction of men in a physical relationship.

"There's nothing wrong with being gay, but I didn't know any gay cowboys."

TED "COWBOY" BEASLEY – former ranch hand who lives in Colorado Springs

Maybe latent homosexuality issues are at work, says Linda Devocelle, executive director of Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center: Some straight men might feel uncomfortable at the movie because they "have had those feelings and it pushes them to look at those feelings."

Ann Carlisle, a Colorado Springs psychologist who specializes in relationship issues, says these men would shy away from the movie because of "cognitive dissonance" — fear and confusion because they don't know how to accept something they were trained to believe is wrong. Carlisle says men in our culture are taught to have very rigid boundaries, and are trained to be disgusted by affection between males.

No matter the explanation, expect a lot of reaction like that from Andrew Sison, 43, a married produce clerk. Sison says he might see the movie because everybody is talking about it and it's a probable Oscar contender.

"But I think I'd prefer to watch it at home on DVD, not at a theater where people might wonder why I was there."

- If men don't show up, women will, because "Brokeback Mountain" is a romantic melodrama, which traditionally appeals to women, and because women are considered more accepting of diversity and gay men.

"The guys might not like the movie," says ElisaVanDerPuy, 24, an Army nurse who wants to see it. "I think in general it is easier for everyone to see women kissing. Girls are more affectionate, you see them hugging or holding hands and think nothing of it, gay or not."

Even that is not a given, however. "I would rather watch a romance between a guy and girl," says Sison's wife, Sabrena.

Ultimately, it will be difficult to sort out who goes to the movie and why, because there are so many variables, says Cante, of the University of North Carolina.

Take the genre, for example. Men might not go to the movie because they don't like romantic melodramas. And although men often like Westerns, "Brokeback Mountain" is not your father's Western.

Ted "Cowboy" Beasley, 57, who was a Leadville-area ranch hand before moving to Colorado Springs, says he won't go to the movie.

"There's nothing wrong with being gay, but I didn't know any gay cowboys," Beasley says. "And I don't think it will correctly portray the cowboy image like John Wayne did."

CONTACT THE WRITERS: 636-0371 or cmcgraw@gazette.com; or 636-0275 or awineke@gazette.com

Ketcham

1-5

. MY PARENTS
RNING."

NON SEQUITUR By Wile

AND HERE'S ANOTHER ONE SUGGESTING YOU TAKE THE SUGGESTION BOX MORE SERIOUSLY...

©'06 DIST. BY UNIVERSAL PRESS SYND. 1-5 WILEYPK@EARTHLINK.NET
WWMACS.COM

WHY DIDN'T
AVE HER
DELIVER?

1-5

©2006 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

PRONTO PIZZA HAS A CHOPPER!

GREG+ MORT WALKER

ARE WE THEN YET?

ARE WE THEN YET?

E-mail:BobThaves@aol.com
©2006 Thaves / Dist. by NEA, Inc.
www.frankandernest.com

1-5
THAVES

www.ufsinc.com

AREN'T YOU AFRAID THAT THE WICKED WITCH WILL SEND HER WINGED CAT AFTER US?

SAY WHAT?

1-5-06 © 2006 Scott Adams, Inc./Dist. by UFS, Inc.

I NEED HEADCOUNT FOR MY PROJECT. BRING THEM TO ME!

k Kirkman

UR
T
JT?

IT'S ABOUT MY IDENTITY, DAD.

www.lockhorns.com

WHEN A PERSON WEARS BLING LIKE THIS, IT SAYS SOMETHING ABOUT THAT PERSON.

©Scott Dan Scott Syndicate Dist by Hall Features Syndicate 1-5

AND WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT YOU?

IT SAYS, "I'M WEARING BLING."

oward

ST

I MEAN, WHEN YOU WERE A KID, DID YOU HONESTLY THINK YOU'D SPEND YOUR WHOLE LIFE IN AN OFFICE DOING PAPERWORK?

©2006 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

IF I SAY YES, CAN I COUNTER IT BY SAYING I HAD A RICH INNER LIFE?

YOU'RE ONE OF A KIND, SAL.

on Wimmer

WINTER GUSTS ARE DIFFICULT TO MANEUVER FOR THOSE OF US WITH LITTLE OR NO BODY MASS!

www.roseisrose.com

ephan Pastis

M...I THINK I HAVE
NG WITH A MAN AND
HEME... AH, YES, HERE
I EVEN GAVE IT A
NICE TITLE...

OH, YEAH?... WHAT IS IT?

Stephan Pastis Dist. by United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

"BOB AND TERRY HAVE THEIR DIFFERENCES."

...YOU KNOW, MAYBE I'LL JUST PICK UP SOMETHING AT THE STORE.

PEOPLE WITH EDIBLE HEADS REALLY SHOULDN'T FIGHT.